

COURT ADMINISTRATION (CHAPTER 9)

- The focus is on the administration of State and Territory magistrates', district/county, supreme and coroners' courts and on probate registries, the Federal Court, the Federal Magistrates Service, the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia. Data are presented in the Report for the Commonwealth and each State and Territory.

Selection of results

- Total expenditure less in-house revenue by Commonwealth, State and Territory court authorities (excluding the High Court) was approximately \$912 million in 2000-01. Nationally, court administration expenditure less in-house revenue was higher in the criminal jurisdiction (\$420 million) than in the civil jurisdiction (\$350 million). It was around \$115 million for family courts, \$24.8 million for coroners' courts and \$2.4 million for probate registries (p. 459). Expenditure by jurisdiction and court level is contained in tables 9A.9-10.
- Nationally, in 2000-01, there were approximately 3.0 million court lodgments. In the criminal jurisdiction there were approximately 2.1 million lodgments; in the civil jurisdiction approximately 0.9 million (including family courts and the Federal Court); and coroners' courts accounted for 0.02 million lodgments (p. 463). Court lodgments by jurisdiction and court level are contained on p. 463.
- Nationally, on the data available, approximately 1.8 million matters were reported as finalised in 2000-01. In the criminal jurisdiction there were 1.4 million finalisations and in the civil jurisdiction (including family courts) there were 0.4 million finalisations (p.470). Court finalisations by jurisdiction and court level are contained on p. 470.
- Nationally, average court fees collected per lodgement for civil magistrates', district/county and supreme/Federal courts were \$77, \$486 and \$921 respectively in 2000-01 (p. 476). Average court fees by jurisdiction and court level are contained on p.476.
- Nationally, of supreme court non-appeal matters, 82.5 per cent of criminal cases were finalised in less than twelve months. For criminal district/county courts 65.1 per cent of cases were finalised in six months, and 87.9 per cent of criminal cases were finalised within six months in magistrates' courts (p.478). A jurisdiction breakdown of these results are available on p. 478.
- Nationally, of supreme court non-appeal matters, 69.3 per cent of civil cases were finalised within 12 months. In the magistrates' courts 88.5 per cent of civil cases were finalised within 6 months. A jurisdiction breakdown of these results is available on p. 481. Advice from jurisdictions indicate that differences in the compilation of data for the district/county court means that comparisons are not possible across jurisdictions for this civil court level (p. 480).
- In all States and Territories, the proportion of magistrates' court locations (in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions) in non-urban areas exceeded the proportion of population residing in non-urban areas in 2000-01 (p. 486).
- Expenditure less in-house revenue per lodgment by jurisdiction and court level is contained on pp. 487 – 493. Expenditure less in-house revenue per finalisation by jurisdiction and court level is contained on pp. 494 – 500.

[MORE]

Progress in 2000-01

The Review is shortly to review its framework of performance indicators for court administration. As well, work on improving data quality and comparability across jurisdictions continues to occur.

[END]

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Please do not approach other parties for comment before Wednesday 30 January 2002.

Media copies of this report are available from Clair Angel on 02 6240 3239.

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